

XAAZ-22427

31 Jul 64

ITEM PREPARED FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION
BY SR/CI/RESEARCH entitled

"LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED FOR OBTAINING SOVIET TOURIST VISAS IN
HELSINKI AND STOCKHOLM, 1964" ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ See XAAZ-224
for chronological listing.

A memo from the Commission to CIA dated 25 May 1964 inquired after information relating to the relatively short period of time in which OSWALD acquired a tourist visa in Helsinki. The first attached item, a memo to the Commission dated 1 July 1964, provides such information as we could obtain on OSWALD's reconstructed timetable for travel from London to Helsinki. The second attached item, dated 31 July 1964, provides comments on length of time required to obtain a tourist visa in Helsinki and Stockholm.

For further information on these items, see:

Lee H. Wigren
Jane Curtis

Document Number 781-341
for FOIA Review on JUN 1976

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31 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy

SUBJECT : Length of Time Required for Obtaining Soviet
Tourist Visas in Helsinki and Stockholm, 1964

NOT AD written

1. In response to a telephone inquiry made in July 1964 concerning the time required for issuance of a Soviet visa for a US businessman, the Soviet consul in Helsinki stated that he could issue a transit visa (valid for 24 hours) in five minutes but that for a longer stay he would need about a week to process a visa application and have Inturist arrange for lodgings. He implied that the main reason for delays in visa issuances was a shortage of hotel space in the USSR.

2. A Finnish travel agency representative said in July 1964 that he is able to obtain Soviet tourist visas for his customers within five days if he pushes the matter.

3. A telephone check with the Soviet consulate in Stockholm in July 1964 revealed that normal visa processing there takes seven days but that this can be shortened to five days "in exceptional cases." The Soviet official receiving the telephone call stated that it was impossible to get a visa within two or three days.

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/4. A Soviet official

for FOIA Review on JUN 1976

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4. A Soviet official in Stockholm indicated in early 1964 that visa processing for foreigners wishing to visit the USSR normally takes six to eight days in Stockholm but that visas for Swedish businessmen and other personalities of special interest (not defined) can be processed directly by the Soviet embassy in Stockholm without referral to Moscow.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans

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